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RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0335

S E C R E T ANKARA 001101

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [EAID](#) [TU](#) [WBG](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKEY: PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY HAS THE LEAD

REF: A. STATE 77206  
[1](#)B. ANKARA 1012  
[1](#)C. ANKARA 1056

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Jeffrey for reasons 1.4 (b,c)

[1](#)1. (S) Ambassador summarized REF A points to MFA U/S Apakan, July 24.

[1](#)2. (S) POLOFF reiterated demarche to MFA Israel/Palestine desk officer Rauf Alp Denktas, July 27. Denktas underscored GOT policy that the Palestinian Authority led by President Abbas is the legitimate authority for all Palestinians. Abbas's constructive July 8-10 Ankara visit reinforced Turkey's position, he added (REF C).

[1](#)3. (S) Comment: The overt stall in the GOT-brokered Israel-Syria indirect talks, tensions with other regional capitals, and the lack of desired results from Hamas seems to have tempered Turkey's stance. We received the right messages from MFA interlocutors at both levels. Like the PLO Embassy here, we are optimistic that the administration will take a more neutral position in the future. That said, the basic Turkish position that Hamas is an actor in the Israeli-Palestinian matrix and that honey more than vinegar will "moderate" Hamas, will remain.

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JEFFREY